

Class: NT615 Exegetical

Professor: Dr. Julianne Cox

Student: Martin Nelson

Subject: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

## **STEP 5: DETAILED LITERARY ANALYSIS, STRUCTURE and SYNTAX, ARGUMENT, LANGUAGE FEATURES, GRAMMAR, AND WORD STUDY.**

### **5.1 STRUCTURE, SYNTAX, AND LOGIC OF ARGUMENT.**

5.1.1. Analyze the structure of your paragraph by starting with a close reading of sentences (cf. Duvall and Hayes, chap. 4, pp. 37-51.). Try using a “sentence flow” method to help clarify the flow of the human author’s argument or story.

After the warm greetings of thankfulness, the letter stated they received grace and peace because the Church is in God. As a result of this, we are mentioning you in our prayers, and remembering you before God, v.2, and because you are in him, we see your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope v.3, he affirmed they are beloved by God, resulting in their election. V.4, an outline was given how they received the gospel, not in word only, but in power, and in the holy spirit, and in much assurance. As a result of the effects of the gospel, they became imitators of the Apostle and Jesus. And examples for believers everywhere. Their belief in the new faith causes them to turn from idols.

#### **MAIN IDEA (?)**

Thankfulness for being exemplary believers.

5.1.2 Write a summary of the information you can derive from your structure above. What words, relationships, or other structural indicators are important and why? (See Duvall and Hayes, chap. 4 “How to Read a Paragraph,” pp. 57-80 for further help).

The Church exists in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The elaborating of thanks shows friendship, gratitude, and appreciativeness (the Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, p.49). This could be an (exordium,) that set the tone for the letter. His thanks are extended for all the time when, and without fail, those grateful words continued throughout the letter. 2:13, 19-20, 3:9-10, and 5:16. Paul also uses the plural “we” in specifying what he shares with his readers (God:1:3; 3:11, 13; the Lord Jesus Christ: 1:3; 3:11, 13; 5:23, 28; the gospel: 1:5; what they believe: 4:14; what they

experience: 3:3-4), as well as in the thanksgiving, which have an epistolary function (1:2, 3; 2:13;3:9), and in epistolary clichés, which establish or nurture a friendly relationship with his readers (4:13; 5:1). (*The Anchor Yale Bible, The Letters to the Thessalonians: A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary*, p.88)

5.1.3 Set out briefly the logic and content of your text (how does the author weigh each step in his argument, etc.) and show the significance of your paragraph in the overall argument/ exhortation/story, etc.? (See Duvall and Hayes, chap. 5, "How to Read the Book—Discourses," pp. 81-106).

The author addressed God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ continually in the text. He extensively thanked God for them. He encouraged them about their faith, labor of love, and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ and the assurance of their election in power and in the Holy Spirit. The author complimented them for receiving the word in much affliction with joy. As a result, they became examples.

**5.2 RHETORIC.** What "rhetorical features" (hyperbole, questions, commands, irony, parable, allegory, allusion, etc.) does your passage display? Rhetoric is a term we use for persuasion. Certain literary techniques will drive home a point you are trying to make. You must determine how any rhetorical features the human author uses to drive home his point. (It helps to remember that these writing were meant to be heard, so they are written for performance. Most people were illiterate and depended on others to read these biblical texts). How do these rhetorical features help with understanding the passage?

According to *The Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament*, the rhetorical device known as antithesis: the gospel came not(οὐκ) in word only but (ἀλλά) with miracles and (kai) in the Holy Spirit and (kai) in a great sense of certainty (p.51).

### **5.3 GRAMMAR.**

**For Advanced or Tech astute Students:** (You may wish to use a Bible software program that identifies Greek and Hebrew words and grammar behind the English. Then you can look up the grammatical terms in the helpful resources, *Biblical Hebrew Companion* or *Biblical Greek Companion for Bible Software Users*).

**For all students:** Make a chart and identify the parts of speech (conjunctions, subjects, verbs, direct and indirect objects. If you have time, note the adjectives and adverbs that give more description)

Verse # Conjunction	Subject (noun or noun clause	Verb (action)	Direct Object	Indirect Object
NKJV	Grace; Peace; Love; Faith; Hope; Election		You; Us	us
And 1:1,2,3,5,6,9,10	Church	Give		
But 1:5	God	Followers		
For 1:2,5,8,9	Holy Spirit	Work		
Not only 1:5 (ESV)	Gospel	Beloved		

5.3.2 List here any difficult or unusual grammatical features of your text

I haven't noticed any difficult or unusual grammatical features of this text.

5.3.3 Determine which of the grammatical features need to be investigated further and give your reasons why. Make a list and check with a good exegetical commentary to see if they discuss the grammatical feature. You will want to include the most important features in your paper.

How "we" is used in the text because some scholars believe this epistle was only addressed to the brethren.

5.4 **WORD STUDIES.** (Note well Duvall and Hayes' discussion and warnings regarding word studies, chap. 9, pp. 165-192.)

5.4.1 Note any words which are crucial to the passage, repeated, figures of speech, or that are unclear, puzzling, or difficult.

- In v. 1, this text states, to the Church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and in V.5 Our Gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit. This could be the Triune God in the work of salvation.
- In 1 Thessalonians 1:2, Paul says, "We always thank God for all of you" (NIV). By "we," he and his companions pray for the Thessalonians. This is an exclusive "we."

On the other hand, when James writes, “We all stumble in many ways” (Jas 3:2 NIV), he is obviously including the readers. This is an inclusive “we.”

- Some of the most repeated words are thanks, and you.
- Other crucial words are faith, love, hope, and election.

5.4.2 For this notebook choose **one of the words** listed in 5.4.1 and determine the possible meanings of the word in the original Greek or Hebrew using The S.T.E.P. program (Scripture Tools for Every Person) available for free at [www.stepbible.org](http://www.stepbible.org).

Begin by identifying the Greek or Hebrew word (Duvall and Hayes, pp. 176-178 show you how to use S.T.E.P. for this task).

Election. This word in verse 4 of the NKJV is election. And translated chosen in the ESV and NIV texts. The commentary in the (Step Bible,) states, “election, choice, selection, the act of choosing. The same Greek word appears seven times in the New Testament. It’s a privilege of Divine grace. It’s found in Romans 9:11, 11:5, 7, 28, and 2 Peter 1:10 and is equivalent to the Hebraism of Acts 9:15.

5.4.3. Determine how the word is used in different contexts (the rest of the Testament you are working in) and by whom.

The word is used in the book of Romans, referring to the children of Israel being elected by God, and in the text of Thessalonians, the same word states that the saints are beloved by God and their assurance of being elected by him. And 2 Peter 1:10 reminds the believers to make sure of their calling because of their election. Throughout the New Testament, another Greek word for Elect is used. And it is the word *eklektos*. It means choice.

Check all the occurrences of the Greek or Hebrew word using the “search for this word” feature in S.T.E.P. (See Duvall and Hayes explanation, pp. 178-180). *This step will take time, but it is essential for faithful interpretation.*

5.4.4 What are the ranges of meanings for this word? Does the author vary the meaning or use it in the same way elsewhere? Are any of these usages unique to the OT or NT?

The ranges of meaning are choice, chosen, and election. The word election can be used in the call of Abraham, Jacob, Moses, David, Cyrus, and Paul. The nation Israel was elected by God for specific purposes. Also, the Thessalonian saints.

5.4.5 Which meaning is most likely here and why? (Use the questions suggested by Duvall and Hayes, pp. 181-183 to help you determine the best meaning for your passage).

The primary meaning throughout the Scriptures is that God has chosen or elected nations and people according to His will. For example, Ephesians 1:4 says, "even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love." And 1 Peter 1:2, "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you." Also, Isaiah 45:4, "For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me."